

S-475
Elisha Sterling House
Freemantown
Private

c. 1890

Located in the historic black community of Freemantown, this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling dates to the late years of the nineteenth century. Similar to other structures in the village, the Elisha Sterling house has a center stair flanked by a single room to each side. In contrast to other two-story single-pile dwellings, this house has individual brick stove chimneys that rise through each gable end. A layer of asbestos shingles cover the original plain weatherboards.

Although little is known about the early history of this house and lot, it has been known as the Elisha Sterling house for the past several decades. With its essential features intact, the house contributes to the turn of the twentieth century character of Freemantown.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: ELISHA STERLING HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: S-475

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. S-475
Magi No.
DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common ELISHA STERLING HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 3516 Freedomtown Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Crisfield ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Elisha and Grace Sterling

street & number 3516 Freedomtown Road telephone no.:

city, town Crisfield state and zip code Maryland 21817

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber No Deed
street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio Reference

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-475

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Elisha Sterling house is located at 3516 Freedomtown Road in the historic black community of Freemantown, east of Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces southeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest orientation.

Dating to around 1890-1900, the two-story, three-bay, single-pile frame dwelling is supported on a low masonry foundation, and the exterior is clad with a layer of asbestos shingles over plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a single-story kitchen wing.

The southeast (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking single-pane sash windows. The front door is partially glazed. Lighting the second floor are three evenly spaced single-pane sash windows. The edge roof is finished with a boxed cornice and the eaves extend on the gable ends with short returns at the base.

The northeast and southwest gable ends are alike with pairs of single-pane sash windows flanking interior end brick stove chimney that protrude through the roof. There are no windows that light the attic space.

Extending from the northwest (rear) wall of the main block is a single-story kitchen wing covered with vinyl siding. A side door is located in the southwest side.

The interior was not seen, but it was evident that a center stair hall separated a room to each side. A late nineteenth century style newel post anchors the stair railing.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-475

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Located in the historic black community of Freemantown, this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling dates to the late years of the nineteenth century. Similar to other structures in the village, the Elisha Sterling house has a center stair flanked by a single room to each side. In contrast to other two-story single-pile dwellings, this house has individual brick stove chimneys that rise through each gable end. A layer of asbestos shingles cover the original plain weatherboards.

Although little is known about the early history of this house and lot, it has been known as the Elisha Sterling house for the past several decades. With its essential features intact, the house contributes to the turn of the twentieth century character of Freemantown.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-475

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 6/27/95

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

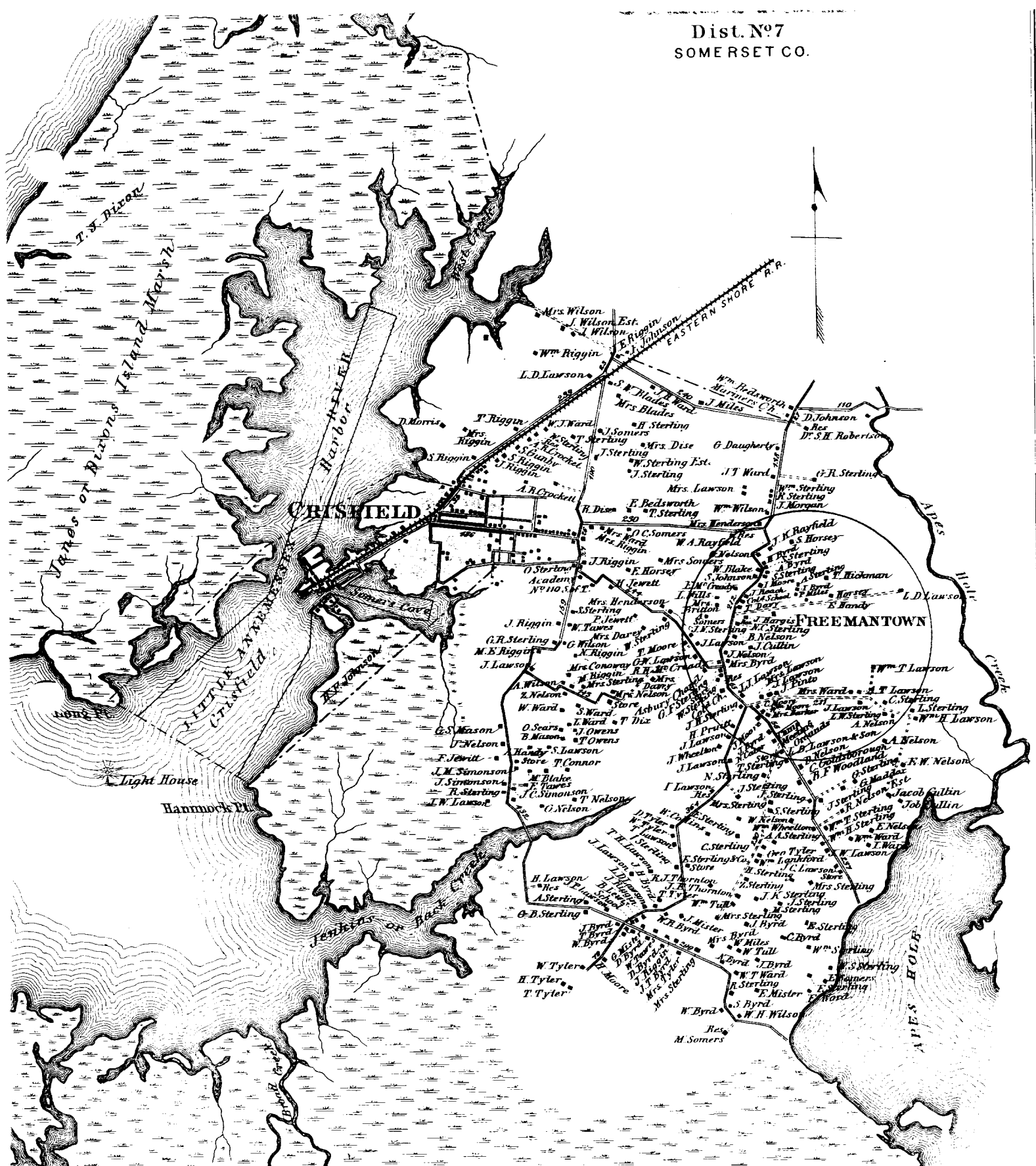
state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

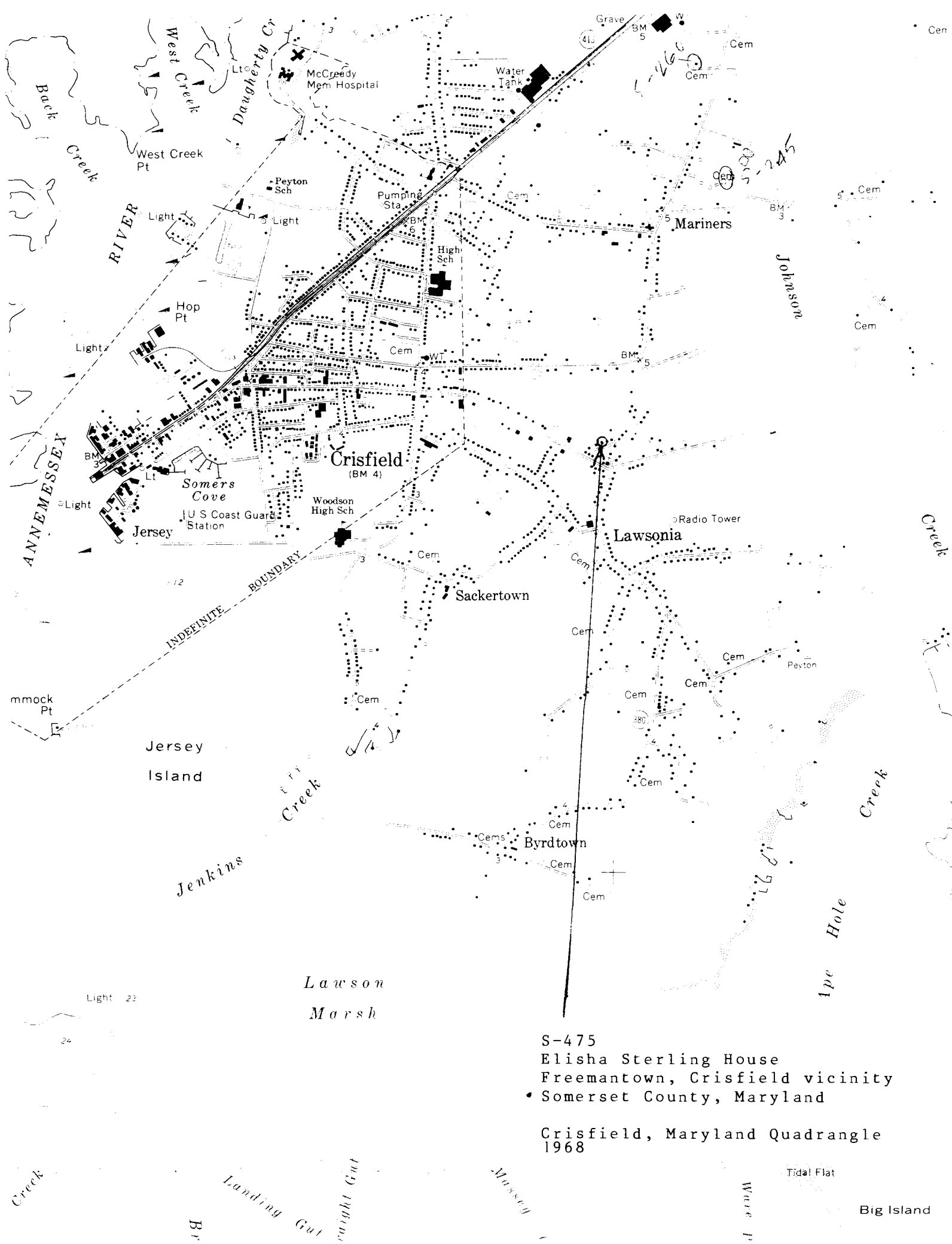
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCH/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600



S-475
Elisha Sterling House
Freemantown, Somerset Co., MD

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas 1877



S-475
 Elisha Sterling House
 Freemantown, Crisfield vicinity
 • Somerset County, Maryland

Crisfield, Maryland Quadrangle
 1968

Big Island



S-475

ELISIA STICKNEY HOUSE

CRISFIELD VICINITY, SOMERSET CO., MD.

South elevation

6/95. PAUL TOWNE, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEE / M.P. HISTORICAL TRUST

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